GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1421
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2001
PRODUCTION OF CEMENT
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cement production has increased during the current year as compared to previous year;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase registered in the cement production; and

(c) the extent to which the Government propose to further improve the production of cement?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

(a)&(b): There is marginal increase of 0.69% in production of cement by large plants during the current year as compared to the previous year. The details are as under:-

April, 2000-January, 2001 - 77.03 million tonnes
April, 1999-January, 2000 - 76.50 million tonnes

(c): 1. In pursuance of Government`s commitment to improve investment climate, the policies and procedures pertaining to Foreign Direct Investment have been progressively liberalised/streamlined. At present all Foreign Direct Investment in areas of infrastructure are permitted under the automatic approval route, except for a small negative list.

2. Recent initiatives of Government in the areas of urban infrastructure development, and tax benefits for Housing sector is likely to boost up the demand for cement.

3 . Accelerated implementation of Prime Minister`s National Highways Development Project with emphasis on construction of concrete roads is likely to give a major fillip to the cement sector.

4. To remove the bottlenecks and improve the efficiency of production, infrastructure support is provided in terms of coal linkages to the cement industry.

5. Rail wagons are also provided to cement plants on priority basis to supply cement to deficit areas.

6. Government is allotting cess funds for R&D efforts in the cement industry, to adopt, absorb and implement latest technologies in the area of energy efficiency.